

MEETING A BIG LINER

NOT EASY TO BOARD AN INCOMING VESSEL IN NEW YORK BAY.

Uncle Sam Grants Few Requests For Passes on the Revenue Cutters Which Go Out to Meet the Steamships From European Ports.

When it is generally understood, as it generally is, that fully 900 persons make application daily in season for passes to board incoming ocean steamers from revenue cutters and that not more than 2 per cent of the requests are granted, it may be understood how valuable the treasury department considers these privileges. The occurrence is rare, but is nevertheless legal for the master of the ship for which a pass calls to refuse to permit the holder to board his ship. All revenue cutter passes are issued by the collector of the port and must be countersigned by the surveyor. The revenue of every country on dutiable personal effects depends for its volume on the ability of the customs authorities to have them duly listed and taxed on arrival. In the event of a promiscuous granting of cutter passes it would be possible for a certain dishonest element that is to be found under every sun to meet incoming friends down the bay and surreptitiously bring ashore at the pier valuables purchased abroad.

The treasury department trusts few, a fact that increased Uncle Sam's respect for a great deal, as the majority of the boarding officers know. Recently the holder of a pass boarded a White Star liner and was approached by a passenger to whom he was a perfect stranger. The latter said:

"I understand you are connected with so and so. I have a small package here that I would like to take ashore. There is nothing dutiable in it, but you understand how the government piles it on. I will meet you at the head of the gangway when I get my luggage released, and I will take the package from you."

Not only did this pass holder not take the package, but the first thing he did upon landing was to point out the passenger to a member of the surveyor's staff, who very promptly demanded and received the package. It contained jewelry of all descriptions. That an unauthorized person may not get on board an incoming craft in advance of the customs officials the following is attached to every pass that is issued for the revenue cutter:

"The permission is understood to be subject to the assent of the master of the steamship and of the health officer as guardian of the public health, and boarding is strictly forbidden until after the customs officers are in charge, according to the following extract from the passenger act, 1882:

"Section 9. That it shall not be lawful for the master of any (such) steamship or other vessel not in distress after the arrival of the vessel within any collection district of the United States to allow any person or persons except a pilot, officer of the customs or health officer, agents of the vessel and consuls to come on board of the vessel or to leave the vessel until the vessel has been taken in charge by an officer of the customs nor after charge so taken without leave of such officer until all the passengers, with their baggage, have been duly landed from the vessel."

When the revenue cutter pass system was originally introduced, nobody in the government employ seems to know. In the old days it was the custom to meet relatives and friends back from an ocean trip on the pier heads. The revenue cutter pass is a simple piece of paper in itself, but is the study of many years and countless number of practical officials. The manner in which it is obtained, the demands made upon its holder, the restrictions as to its use and its composition in every way are the result of innumerable revisions of passes that have preceded it during the last 20 years, and it now omits nothing that will protect Uncle Sam, as it really should do.

A few years ago it was possible for all sorts of idlers to gain admission to a pier while the passengers of a ship from foreign parts were landing. This had been the practice for some years, and the steamship gateman had the sole and exclusive right of deciding who should enter. It was supposed and frequently discovered in individual cases that dutiable goods were secretly passed to these friends who came down to welcome the homecomer.

As a consequence the inability to get a revenue cutter pass did not make much material difference, the dock affording full scope for any desired work in a dishonest way. To protect the purposes of the cutter passes and to place a further barrier around illegal practices the treasury department recently made a new rule that admission to a steamer during the docking of an incoming steamer could be obtained by card only. This admission ticket, like the revenue cutter passes, is not transferable and must bear the name of the holder, the signature of the steamship company and the indorsement of the collector of the port. The perfection of the cutter pass system as to transfer may be appreciated when it is stated that the beneficiary of the pass must affix his name to the pass on receiving it at the custom house and again when he boards the cutter at the Battery. This eliminates all chance of the pass being transferred. Transfers have been illegally made, but the holder, being unable to furnish the same signature as that supplied at the custom house, was compelled to leave the cutter, and the pass was taken up.—New York Mail and Express.

Failure to the man who learns means experience, and experience is wealth.—Saturday Evening Post.

Handshaking.
In the days of knightly every man carried a sword and was ready to slash his neighbor upon the slightest pretext. When friends met, they grasped one another by the right hand, thereby indicating peaceable intentions, as each one thus gave up to the other his fighting arm. That is why we shake with the right hand.—Ladies' Home Journal.

A self closing door spring adds to the anger of the angry man who wants to slam the door.—Chicago News.

THE CRIMEAN WAR.

It Was Started in a Controversy Over a Door Key.

As an instance of what great events can follow trivial happenings the genesis of the Crimean war is interesting.

In 1851 Louis Napoleon demanded of the sultan that the Latin monks should have a key to the great door of the church at Bethlehem; that they should have a key to each of the doors of the Cave to the Nativity and the privilege of setting up there a silver star bearing the arms of France.

After a year of arduous negotiation the Turkish government yielded, and in February, 1853, the keys were handed over to the Latin monks, and the silver star was established in the sanctuary of Bethlehem.

Unfortunately Emperor Nicholas, as head of the Greek church, considered this an infringement of his rights and immediately ordered 150,000 men across the Turkish frontier. At the same time he demanded that the claims of the Christian population of Turkey should be secured by treaty with himself, but the sultan refused this, with the support of France, Austria and Prussia.

The czar then proceeded to seize the Danubian provinces, proclaiming at the same time that he had "no intention to commence war."

The central European countries attempted to secure a compromise, but neither party would agree to their mediation, and in October the sultan declared war.

England and France joined him, and so from such slight beginnings sprang the most merciless, bloody and fruitless struggle of the nineteenth century.—New York Journal.

He Was Very Accommodating.
Apropos of the ready comprehension and native wit attributed to the sons of Erin, Patrick's compliance with the customer's wish stands out in bold position. Patrick was a clerk in a suburban grocery store. It was a busy season and the grocer was waiting on two or three customers at the same time. He was in a hurry, and everything had to be where he could get it without much trouble or he would be delayed and probably lose money, so when he found that the pound weight was gone he was bothered.

"Patrick," he called out, "where's the pound weight?"

"The pound weight, is it?" said Patrick complacently. "Sure, an it's Mister Jones has the pound weight."

"Mr. Jones has it? What do you mean by saying that Mr. Jones has the pound weight? I thought the pound weight was in the store. How did Mr. Jones get it?"

"An shure, didn't yez tell me to be perlitte to the regular customers?"

"Of course."

"Well, then, Mister Jones comes into the store for a pound of fat. An, says he, 'Whin I asked him what quality of fat he would have, 'Whatever yez give me,' says he, 'give me the weight.' So I put the pound weight in the package with the fat, perlitte like, an it's himself that's gone with it."—Chicago Post.

WORKING UP A SICKNESS.
The Story of a Man Who Thought He Had Appendicitis.

"A nervous man recently called on me," said a New Orleans physician, "and asked, 'In what part of the abdomen are the premonitory pains of appendicitis felt?' On the left side, exactly here," I replied, indicating a spot a little above the point of the hip bone.

"He went out, and next afternoon I was summoned in hot haste to the St. Charles hotel. I found the patient writhing on his bed, his forehead bedewed with sweat and his whole appearance indicating intense suffering. 'I have an attack of appendicitis,' he groaned, 'and I'm a dead man! I'll never survive an operation!'"

"Where do you feel the pain?" I asked.

"Oh, right here," he replied, putting his finger on the spot I had located at the office. 'I feel as if somebody had a knife in me there and was turning it around.'"

"Well, then, it isn't appendicitis at any rate," I said cheerfully, 'because that is the wrong side.'"

"The wrong side!" he exclaimed, glaring at me indignantly. 'Why, you told me yourself it was on the left!'"

"Then I must have been abstracted," I replied calmly. 'I should have said the right! I prescribed something that wouldn't hurt him and learned afterward that he ate his dinner in the dining room. What if he had located at the office. I feel as if somebody had a knife in me there and was turning it around.'"

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THE PITH OF POLITICS.

(By ARTHUR J. PILLSBURY.)

It is a proverb that politics makes strange bedfellows and it ought to be a proverb that politics makes bedfellows strange and puts them into strange situations. Of all the strange poses that the exigencies of office hunting have compelled the new Democracy to assume nothing has ever excited that of the present pose of Mr. Bryan's party as the party of great moral ideas. It reminds me that "When the devil was sick the devil a saint would be, but when the devil got well—that was different." The burden of the Bryanistic press is heavy with holy horror of the wickedness of the Republican party and its managers and the novice in politics would be excusable for gathering from the platform which Mr. Bryan imposed upon the Kansas City convention that a heavy majority of the delegates had lately been kneeling at the seat of mercy and were under conviction for sin. As a cold matter of fact, however, the antecedents of the amalgamated organization are far from keeping with present protestations and the notorious morality of the new Democracy is that of the recent convert and the American people will be wise if they insist upon a long probation prior to the extension of the right hand of fellowship.

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and party of forty rooms and unexpected victory, as to be known on Boss Croker in exchange for his immoral influence in this campaign? One who summarizes the Bryanistic platform in search of some expression in favor of a reformed, civil service and has found nothing—a line or syllable, may well be excused if he concludes that the consideration was New York appointments without civil service strings tied to them. What a luscious peach that will be for Tammany and its boss!

With an aroma will that peach be attended fresh from the fair hand of this vestal virgin of end-of-the-century politics, the new Democracy with great moral ideas! . . .

A hankering after repudiation is another besetting sin of this new fangled party of great moral ideas. Four years ago the purpose was this: disguised by sophistical argumentation to the effect that free coinage of silver would not result in a depreciated currency, but the real bait held out to those who were then in debt was the ability to discharge their obligations in cheaper dollars than were lawful money when the debts were contracted. That was the very soul of the cheap money movement of the concluding decade of the century and without that promise held out to a people whose want of business conservatism had brought them into debt the Populist party would never have come into being and the new Democracy would never have risen to humiliate and bring into disrepute the party that was founded by Thomas Jefferson and which, in 1872, declared "That the public credit must be sacredly maintained and we denounce repudiation in every form and guise." Let it be remembered by the reader that this multimillion dollar organization, masquerading as a party of great moral ideas, is still held together by this one and only common bond to union, cheap money, and that it stands pledged to inflict upon the country a flood of depreciated currency and that with this currency to repudiate discharge bonded obligations for which the faith and credit of the government are pledged. For sake of a merited emphasis the proposition is again repeated: There is not between the cohorts of the new Democracy, Populism and free silver Republicanism a greenbackism

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